

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A service allocating device in a network where at least one first device which responds to a network service request and at least one second device which does not respond to the network service request and a setting which can be modified from outside are connected, comprising:

a ~~unit~~ network information collecting section for obtaining information about a network service provided by the first device;

a ~~unit~~ setting device determining section for specifying the second device which does not respond to the network service based on information from the network information collecting section; and

a service mapping section for mapping ~~unit converting a setting content of the~~ network service parameters to be set into parameter values of received by the first device and requested for the first device, to a setting content to which the second device specified by the setting device determining section; ~~can respond~~, and

a service setting section ~~the~~ for setting the parameter values content obtained by the ~~conversion~~ service mapping section in the second device; which

performs control of the network service parameters setting content of the second device that does not correspond to the network service by the first device, according to

the network service request received by the first device.

2. (Currently Amended) The service allocating device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a service setting storing ~~unit~~ section storing setting contents of the first and second devices, which respond to previous network services; and

a service competition calculating ~~unit~~ section in checking a competition relation between network service requests from a plurality of users based on information stored in the service setting storing section, adjusting the competition relation, and determining the setting contents of the first and second devices so as to respond to the network service to be provided.

3. (Currently Amended) The service allocating device according to claim 1 further comprising:

a priority route selecting ~~unit~~ section selecting a device for providing a higher function of a requested network service, of the first and second devices which are connected to the network, and determining a communications route through which the selected devices are connected; and

a route comparison ~~unit~~ section communications route used prior to a new network service request with a communications route determined by the priority route selecting ~~unit~~ section.

4. (Currently Amended) The service allocating device according to claim 3, further comprising:

a route setting generating ~~unit~~ section determining communications route suitable for provision of the new network service based on a comparison result obtained by the route comparison section, which performs control so that the new network service can be provided, using a communications route determined by the route setting generating ~~unit~~ section.

5. (Currently Amended) The service allocating device according to claim 2, further comprising:

a service stoppage request generating ~~unit~~ section obtaining information about a network service provision state of the first device, detecting provision stoppage of a network service by the first device based on the network service provision state information, and generating a service stoppage request;

a service setting storing ~~unit~~ section storing a plurality of setting information of the first and second devices, which correspond to a network service that existed before provision stoppage of the network service is detected; and

a service competition calculating ~~unit~~ section is calculating a service competition relation that is modified by the detected provision stoppage of the network service according to both the service stoppage request and storage information of the service setting storing section.

6. (Original) A service allocating method in a network where at least one first device which responds to a network service request and at least one second device which does not respond to the network service request and a setting of which can be modified from outside are connected, comprising:

- (a) obtaining information about a network service provided by the first device;
 - (b) specifying the second device which does not respond to the network service; and
 - (c) converting a setting content of the network service received by the first device and requested for the first device, to a setting content to which the second device can respond; and
 - (d) setting a setting content obtained by the conversion in the second device;
- which

performs control of the setting content of the second device that does not correspond to the network service by the first device, according to the network service request received by the first device.

7. (Original) The service allocating method according to claim 6, further comprising:

- (e) storing setting contents of the first and second devices, which respond to previous network services; and
- (f) checking a competition relation between network service requests from a plurality of users based on storage information in step (e), adjusting the competition

relation and determining the setting contents of the first and second devices so as to respond to a network service to be provided.

8. (Original) The service allocating method according to claim 6, further comprising:

(g) selecting a device for providing a higher function of a requested network service, of the first and second devices which are connected to the network, and determining a communications route through which the selected devices are connected; and

(h) comparing a communications route used prior to a new network service request with a communications route determined by the priority route selecting section.

9. (Original) The service allocating method according to claim 8, further comprising:

(i) determining a communications route suitable for provision of the new network service based on a comparison result obtained by the route comparing section, which

performs control so that the new network service can be provided, using a communications route determined in step (i).

10. (Original) The service allocating method according to claim 7, further comprising:

- (j) obtaining information about a network service provision state of the first device, detecting provision stoppage of a network service by the first device based on the network service provision state information and generating a service stoppage request;
- (k) storing a plurality of setting the first and second devices, which correspond to a network service existed that before provision stoppage of the network service is detected; and
- (l) calculating a service competition relation that is modified by the detected provision stoppage of the network service according to both the service stoppage request and the information stored in step (e).

11. (Original) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for enabling a computer to execute a service allocating process in a network where at least one first device which responds to a network service request and at least one second device which does not respond to the network service request and the setting of which can be modified from outside are connected, the process comprising:

- (a) obtaining information about a network service provided by the first device;
- (b) specifying the second device which does not respond to the network service; and
- (c) converting a setting content of network service received by the first device and requested for the first device to a setting content to which the second device can respond; and
- (d) setting a setting content conversion in the second device; which

performs control of the setting content of the second device that does not correspond to the network service by the first device, according to the network service request received by the first device.

12. (Original) The storage medium according to claim 11, the process further comprising:

- (e) storing setting contents of the first and second devices, which respond to previous network services; and
- (f) checking a competition relation between network service requests from a plurality of users based on information stored in step (e), adjusting the competition relation, and determining the setting contents of the first and second devices so as to respond to a network service to be provided.

13. (Original) The storage medium according to claim 11, the process further comprising:

- (g) selecting a device for providing a higher function of a requested network service, of the first and second devices which are connected to the network, and determining a communications route through which the selected devices are connected; and
- (h) comparing a communications route used prior to a new network service request with a communications route determined by the priority route selecting section.

14. (Original) The storage medium according to claim 13, the process further comprising:

(i) determining a communications route suitable for provision of the new network service based on a comparison result obtained by the route comparing section, which

performs control so that the new network service can be provided, using a communications route determined in step (i) .

15. (Original) The storage medium according to claim 12, the process further comprising:

(j) obtaining information about a network service provision state of the first device, detecting provision stoppage of a network service by the first device based on the network service provision state information, and generating a service stoppage request;

(k) storing a plurality of setting information of the first and second devices, which correspond to a network service before provision stoppage of the network service is detected; and

(l) calculating a service competition relation that is modified by the detected provision stoppage of the network service, according to both the service stoppage request and the information stored in step (e).